

[22nd December 1922]

## APPENDIX A.

[Vide answer to question No. 664 asked by Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 22nd December 1922, page 1170 supra]

*Report.*

*Clause 4.*—The Government understand that the Adi-Dravida who was formerly in the Cuddalore taluk board is now a nominated member of the district board and that no other suitable member of that community is available. An Adi-Dravida could not be appointed to the Chidambaram taluk board as the owner of the rented house in which the taluk board office is located has objected to the Adi-Dravida entering the premises. To get over this difficulty, steps are being taken to construct a building for the taluk board office.

A Vania (oil-monger) M.R.Ry. V. Rajagopala Chettiyar Avargal, B.A., Pleader, has been appointed to the Cuddalore taluk board and a fisherman M.R.Ry. K. Ramaswami Nattar to the Chidambaram taluk board.

*Clause 5.*—M.R.Ry. D. J. Rajanayakam Avargal, B.A., L.T., a member of the Chidambaram taluk board, is a Protestant.

*Clauses 6 and 7.*—It is not possible to appoint members to represent the various innumerable communities as the number of seats for nomination is very limited and the communities referred to in section 9 (5) of the Act have to be given preference.

## APPENDIX B.

[Vide answer to question No. 665 asked by Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 22nd December 1922, page 1170 supra.]

*President's letter.*

I have the honour to furnish answers to the question referred to in Government Memorandum No. 17203-1, L. & M., dated 24th November 1922 :—

*Clause 1.*—The answer is in the affirmative.

*Clause 2.*—Persons defeated at the polls are not disqualified under the Madras Local Boards Act for being appointed to local boards.

*Clause 3.*—All the gentlemen referred to in this clause were nominated in the best interests of administration of the taluk boards to which they were respectively nominated.

## II

## FLOODS IN THE VAIGAI.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ May I crave your permission, Sir, to ask the hon. the Revenue Member to give us some particulars about the damages done to property and life in the two districts of Madura and Ramnad by the recent floods in the Vaigai and in other rivers? I have already given private notice of this to the hon. Member.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I am sorry I have not got at the present moment a detailed or complete report about the extent of the damages caused by the recent floods. But as there is a great desire on the part of the hon. Members who represent

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the southern districts for some official information about the extent of damage, I have certainly no objection to tell the House the exact position of affairs as far as it is now known. The first information which was received by us about Madura was by means of a telegram from the Collector of that district in which he says :

Heavy floods in the Vaigai from the first damage reported Tiruppavanam. Other reports not received owing interruption post, telegraph. Railway breach on all lines Madura. Ramnad reports no floods damage.

"He followed up this telegram by another, on the 3rd December, in which he merely stated :

Railway breached many places. Madura to Ramnad damage crops. Tanks flood now abating.

"This was again followed by another telegram on the 4th December in which he informed the Government that there were unprecedented floods throughout the Madura district from the 1st instant, that in the Madura town 900 houses had collapsed, that the damage in the town was estimated at two lakhs, that the river was running almost touching the railway bridge girders, that the railway and the road bridges were safe, and that two men were drowned; 'All railway lines breached. For one week communications Madura-Kodaikanal Road by road and thence by railway possible. Periyakulam town suspension bridge washed away. Many houses damaged. Roads and bridges damaged throughout district. Estimated damage forty thousand rupees. Known casualties two. Many tanks breached. Periyar lake rose one foot in four hours and reached one foot above F.T.L. Lake escape fully open for first time in history. Periyar main canal badly breached involving probably three weeks closure for repairs, affecting whole delta. Fine weather since Saturday. River steadily falling.'

"I may at once tell the House that this is all the information we have 11-15 a.m. and this is being placed before the public. It is now in print and copies will be laid on the Editors' Table as well as communicated to hon. Members of this House.

"So far as Madura is concerned, we have not yet received any further report. As the damage reported in these telegrams seems to be widespread, I assume that the officers concerned are making fuller enquiries to furnish the Government with accurate information, and, when it is received, I shall consider whether that too should be communicated to everybody concerned.

"As regards Ramnad, Sir, the first information we had was by means of a demi-official from the Collector of Ramnad. In it he told us :

The Vaigai came down in heavy freshes on the night of the 30th November and on 1st December. The flood reached Ramnad district on the early morning of the 1st December and Ramnad itself only on the 2nd evening. Hence no damage on the Ramnad side was reported in my telegram to the Government on the 2nd. I have not been able to get communication with Ramnad to know whether the big tank there has breached across the railway; but I understand that it has done so; at any rate, the railway is breached there, and at numerous places between Ramnad and Madura. So far as I have heard, the towns on the bank of the river are safe, with, of course, damage to houses. The road from Madura along the river is impassable, the first breach being beyond the Madura toll-gate. The country affected is the part of Sivaganga and Ramnad zamindaries, lying south of the river, and this is, for the most part, sparsely inhabited and sparsely cultivated. Being permanently settled estates, they are not entitled to any remission of revenue. The Sub-Collector and the Executive Engineer are at Ramnad, which is the town most in danger, and there is still railway communication with Mantapam from there. The Tahsildar at Paramakudi reported all safe. As at Sivaganga, tahsildar will be unable to reach the area beyond the river. I have deputed my sarishtadar to the charge of that



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section. The floods have now abated considerably and it should be possible to start repairing the damage. Rail communication with Dhanushkodi will be interrupted for some time. The Railway line between Madura and Pasmalai breached, cutting communication with the Sivakasi Division. Transhipment is possible here, and the line is almost restored. There were floods in the Satur taluk also, I am informed, but not of importance.

"This demi-official of the Collector of Ramnad is dated 4th December and a copy of it has been sent to the Board of Revenue also. The Board of Revenue had on the 6th December asked the Collector to send a detailed report officially on the subject and that report is yet awaited."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Has no information been received about the damage done to the town of Ramnad, to a portion of the town of Tirupuvanam, and also to the town of Tirupallani?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"All the information I have been able to get, I have already placed before the House."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Has no information been received about the breach of railway line between Madura and Ramnad? I believe breaches occurred in as many as fourteen places on the railway line between the two places."

Mr. SAIYID IBRAHIM RAVUTTAR:—"I wish to know whether there are any Muhammadans among the casualties that occurred during the floods."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"We have not yet started a census of casualties on communal lines" (Laughter).

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I wish to know whether the hon. the Revenue Member will call for a detailed report about the extent of damages done to house property in villages as also to crops and to tanks."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have only to repeat that I am awaiting a detailed report from the Collectors of the two districts. With regard to the extent of damages to railway lines, I do not know whether the hon. the Home Member has got any further information."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"I wish to ask whether in view of the fact that some accounts of the damages caused by the flood have been appearing in the Press for over a fortnight, the Government did not think it necessary on their part to call for a more detailed report than what is contained in the two brief telegrams and the demi-official just now read by the hon. the Revenue Member. I understand that the hon. the Revenue Member is waiting for the Board of Revenue and the Collectors to make a detailed report. I am afraid that they will take a long time to send a fuller report. In view of the responsibility of the Government to this House, I think the Government should have already obtained a detailed report regarding this widespread calamity and placed it before the House. The Government were aware in the beginning of this month that this House would shortly assemble and therefore they should have, of their own motion, placed fuller information before the House. Such a long interval ought not to have been allowed to lapse. Urgent orders may have to be passed to repair immediately the damages caused and for this purpose the Public Works Department may have to be strengthened temporarily. I am afraid that by the time the fuller report is received the necessity for repair

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will disappear and damages may occur which can have been prevented by prompt action on the part of local officers. I wish to observe that the Government also have a certain amount of responsibility to see that action is initiated promptly especially in the case of a calamity of such a widespread nature."

MR. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken to repair damages caused to railway lines by the floods ? "

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" With regard to the breaches on the railway lines, we have, of course, received reports that all of them have been repaired and therefore I think it is not necessary for my hon. friend to pursue that matter further. "

The hon. Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I had a report on the breaches in the Periyar channel, and, by the kindness of the Kallar officer who had sent us nearly 4,000 Kallars, the breaches have all been completely repaired, or they have all been very nearly completely repaired. "

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" Am I to understand that since the railway line has been restored, there is nothing more to be done in that matter ? May I bring to the notice of the hon. the Home Member and of this House that all these calamities were solely due to the inadequate openings in the railway line for the passage of drainage water ? If sufficient culverts and bridges had been constructed on the railway lines, all these damages to house and property could have been avoided and the floods would have easily drained. It is owing to the inadequacy of culverts and bridges that the water spread into the villages. "

MR. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" May I request the hon. the Home Member to call for information regarding the number of tanks over which the railway line from Madura to Rameswaram passes, the number of bridges which are constructed on the line abutting the big tanks which exist to the northern side of the line ? "

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" On the question of the number of bridges between Madura and Rameswaram, I am afraid I have not got information at present. After what has been stated on the subject, I can only undertake to bring these comments to the notice of the railway authorities. "

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" That will really satisfy us, because we only want an investigation on the adequacy or otherwise of the railway culverts and bridges. "

### III

#### ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS DURING THE JANUARY MEETING.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Mr. President, in accordance with the undertaking given on the 19th instant, I submit to the Council the following statement of Government business which is likely to be taken up during the January meeting. It is expected that the report of the Select Committee on the Madras University Bill will be taken into consideration. It is not yet known whether the similar report on the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill will be ready for that meeting or will have to wait till the next. It is expected that the Irrigation Bill will be introduced. In addition to this there will be three minor Bills : a Bill to amend the District Municipalities Act, a Bill to amend the Local Boards Act and a Bill to